

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 L-03 FEAEO-00 OES-03

SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07 CIAE-00 COME-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

SP-02 /070 W

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O R 151520Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5583

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 15830

PARIS FOR SCHWEBEL AND DEVINE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT PETROLEUM ROYALTY HOLDERS

REF: (A) STATE 243027, (B) LONDON 15376

1. AS SUGGESTED REFTEL A EMBASSY INFORMED FCO THAT
US WOULD BE ILCLINED TO RAISE WITH GOV SPECIAL
LEGISLATION OR OTHER APPROPRIATE PROVISION FOR
COMPENSATINON OF ROYALTY HOLDERS.

2. FCO LATIN AMERICAN DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL REITERATED,
AS REPORTED REFTEL B, THAT BRITISH ULTRAMAR STILL
HAS NOT SOUGHT HMG INTERVENTION. HE ADDED THAT
AMOUNTS OF MONEY INVOLVED WERE QUITE SMALL AND,
MOREOVER, LEGAL ADVISER'S OFFICE BELIEVED LEGAL BASIS
FOR ROYALTY HOLDERS' CLAIM WAS RATHER WEAK. HE
ACKNOWLEDGED NONETHELESS THAT HMG MIGHT BE WILLING
TO RAISE QUESTION OF COMPENSTATION AS QUASI-POLITICAL
ORQUASI-MORAL MATTER IF ULTRAMAR SO REQUESTS.

3. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT FCO HAS GIVEN ROYALTY
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HOLDER ISSUE RELAXED, COMPARATIVELY LOW LEVEL ATTEN-

TION, PARTICULARLY ON LEGAL SIDE. FURTHER, HMG
CONTINGENT AT PREPCON IS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS
QUESTION IN INTELLIGENT FASHION. SCHWEBEL AND
DEVINE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER DISCUSSION WITH FCO
OFFICIALS IN LONDON FOLLOWING PREPCON IN AN EFFORT
TO ROUSE GREATER ENTHUSIASM FOR PROPOSED US APPROACH.
ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED MEETING AT
FCO FOR 11 AM, OCTOBER 17, WHICH WOULD BE ATTENDED
BY VENEZUELAN DESK OFFICER, LEGAL ADVISER OFFICE
REPRESENTATIVE AND POSSIBLY BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO
VENEZUELA WHO IS PRESENTLY IN LONDON.

4. ACTION REQUEST: THAT SCHWEBEL OR DEVINE
CONTACT KAUFMAN ASAP TO CONFIRM OR CANCEL NOVEMBER
17 MEETING

RICHARDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, NATIONALIZATION, COMPENSATION, ROYALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON15830
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750357-0771
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751052/aaaabtxd.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 243027, 75 LONDON 15376
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PETROLEUM ROYALTY HOLDERS
TAGS: ENRG, EINV, VE, US, UK
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006